

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method comprising:

receiving information about tasks that must be finished in order to complete said design project, wherein said information comprises, for each one of said tasks, an appropriate resource, a data source, at least one design tool and a duration;

prioritizing said tasks to create a design project plan;

creating an encryption key for each one of said tasks, wherein said encryption key for each one of said tasks allows access by said appropriate resource to said data source and said at least one design tool for a limited period of time;

automatically notifying resources of task responsibilities and associated due dates based on said design project plan through the use of encryption keys;

controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to said resources;

automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized network; and

automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

2. (Original) The method in claim 1, wherein said monitoring includes observing

whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.

3. (Original) The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.

4. (Original) The method in claim 1, further comprising producing periodic status reports based on said monitoring.

5. (Original) The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.

6. (Original) The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically searching for additional resources for tasks that are overdue.

7. (Original) The method in claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises a polling function.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method comprising:

identifying tasks, comprising at least a first task and a second task, that must be finished to complete said design project based on design data;

assigning said tasks to a plurality of resources;
receiving information about said tasks, wherein said information comprises, for
each one of said tasks, an appropriate resource, a data source, at least one design tool and
a duration;

prioritizing said tasks based on dependency between said tasks to create a design project plan, wherein said first task is a prerequisite for said second task;

creating an encryption key for each one of said tasks, wherein said encryption key
for each one of said tasks allows access by said appropriate resource to said data source
and said at least one design tool for a limited period of time and wherein creation of said
encryption key for said second task is gated until completion of said first task;

storing said design project plan and said design data in a database;

automatically notifying said resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on said design project plan ~~through the use of encryption keys~~;

~~controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys~~
~~assigned to said resources~~;

automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized network; and

automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

9. (Original) The method in claim 8, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.
10. (Original) The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.
11. (Original) The method in claim 8, further comprising producing periodic status reports based on said monitoring.
12. (Original) The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.
13. (Original) The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically searching for additional resources for tasks that are overdue.
14. (Original) The method in claim 8, wherein said monitoring comprises a polling function.
15. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method comprising:

receiving information about tasks that must be finished in order to complete said design project, wherein said information comprises, for each one of said tasks, an appropriate resource, a data source, at least one design tool and a duration;

prioritizing said tasks to create a design project plan;

creating an encryption key for each one of said tasks, wherein said encryption key for each one of said tasks allows access by said appropriate resource to said data source and said at least one design tool for a limited period of time;

automatically notifying resources of task responsibilities and associated due dates based on said design project plan through the use of encryption keys;

controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to said resources;

automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized network; and

automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

16. (Original) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.

17. (Original) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.
18. (Original) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises producing periodic status reports based on said monitoring.
19. (Original) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises automatically notifying said resources of additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.
20. (Original) The method in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises automatically searching for additional resources for tasks that are overdue.